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02711

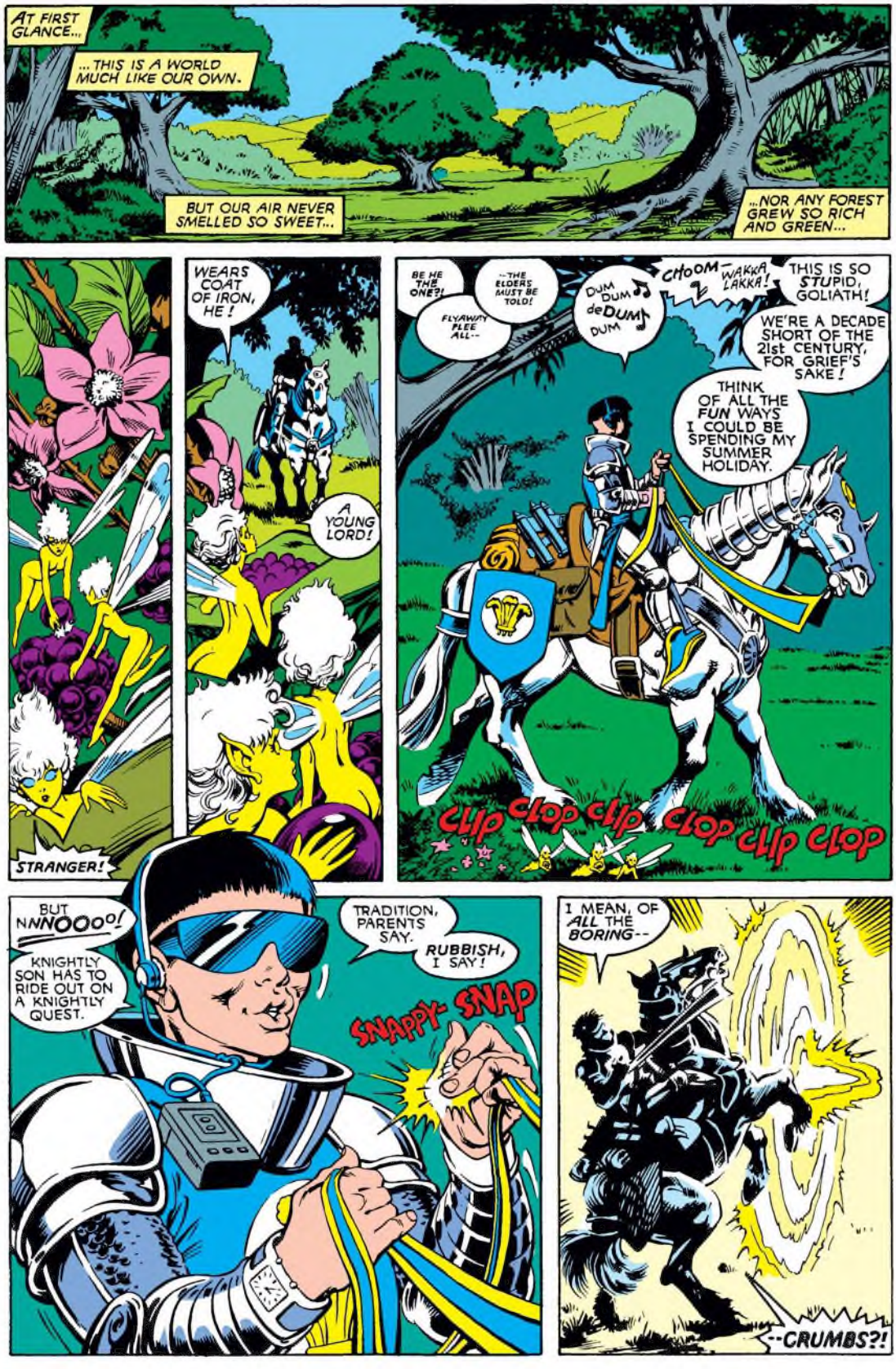
THE CROSS-TIME CAPER

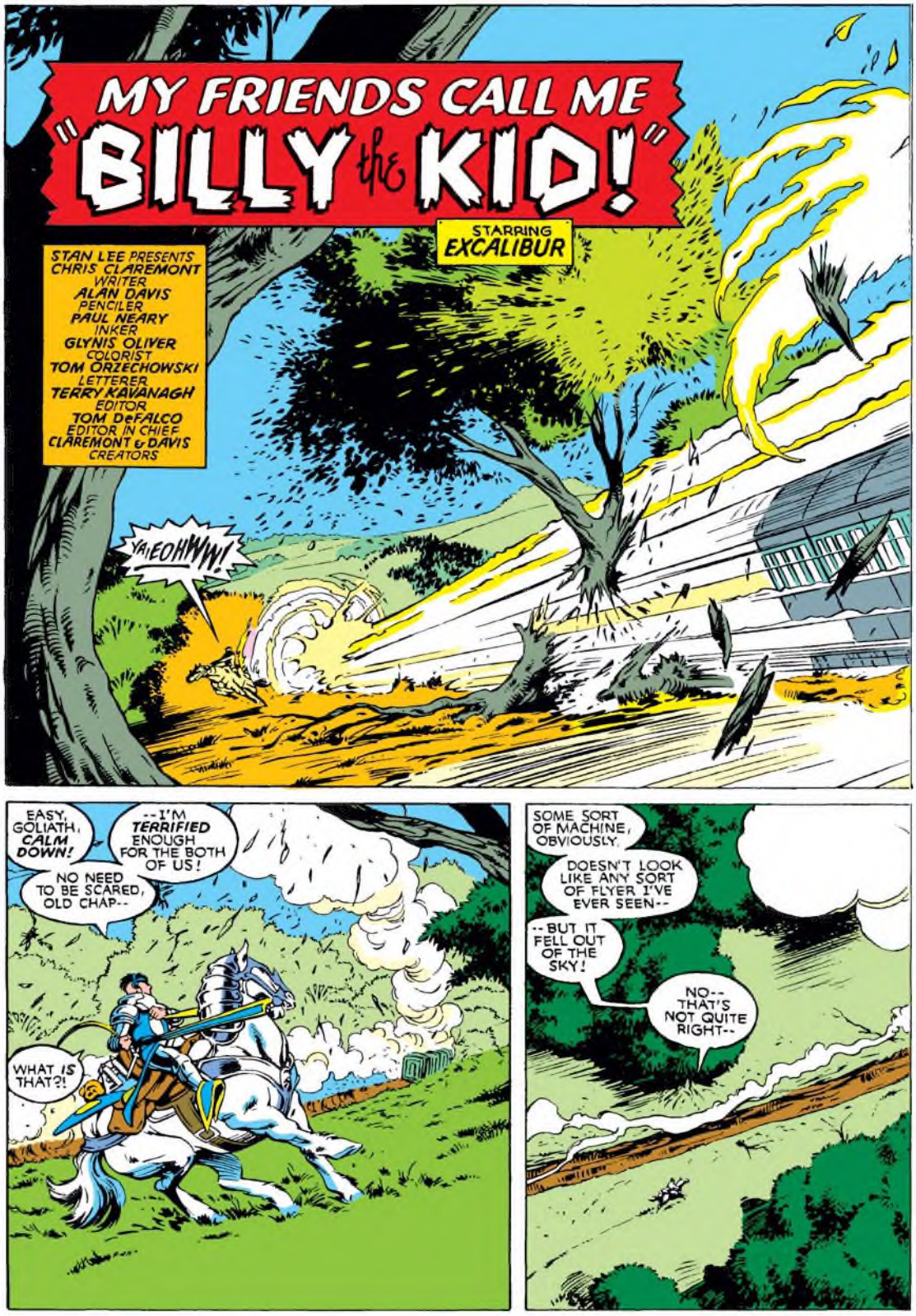
EXCALIBUR™

Part 1 of 9

UH-OH.

Alan Davis/ NEARY


AT FIRST GLANCE...
...THIS IS A WORLD MUCH LIKE OUR OWN.
BUT OUR AIR NEVER SMELLED SO SWEET...
...NOR ANY FOREST GREW SO RICH AND GREEN...
STRANGER!
WEARS COAT OF IRON, HE!
A YOUNG LORD!
BE HE THE ONE?!
FLYAWAY PLEE ALL--
--THE ELDERS MUST BE TOLD!
DUM DUM deDUM DUM
CHOOM— WAKKA LAKKA!
THIS IS SO STUPID, GOLIATH!
WE'RE A DECADE SHORT OF THE 21st CENTURY, FOR GRIEF'S SAKE!
THINK OF ALL THE FUN WAYS I COULD BE SPENDING MY SUMMER HOLIDAY.
CLIP CLOP CLIP CLOP CLIP CLOP
BUT NNNOOOO!
KNIGHTLY SON HAS TO RIDE OUT ON A KNIGHTLY QUEST.
TRADITION, PARENTS SAY.
RUBBISH, I SAY!
SNAPPY- SNAP
I MEAN, OF ALL THE BORING--
--CRUMBS?!


MY FRIENDS CALL ME
"BILLY the KID!"
STARRING EXCALIBUR
STAN LEE PRESENTS
CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER
ALAN DAVIS
PENCILER
PAUL NEARY
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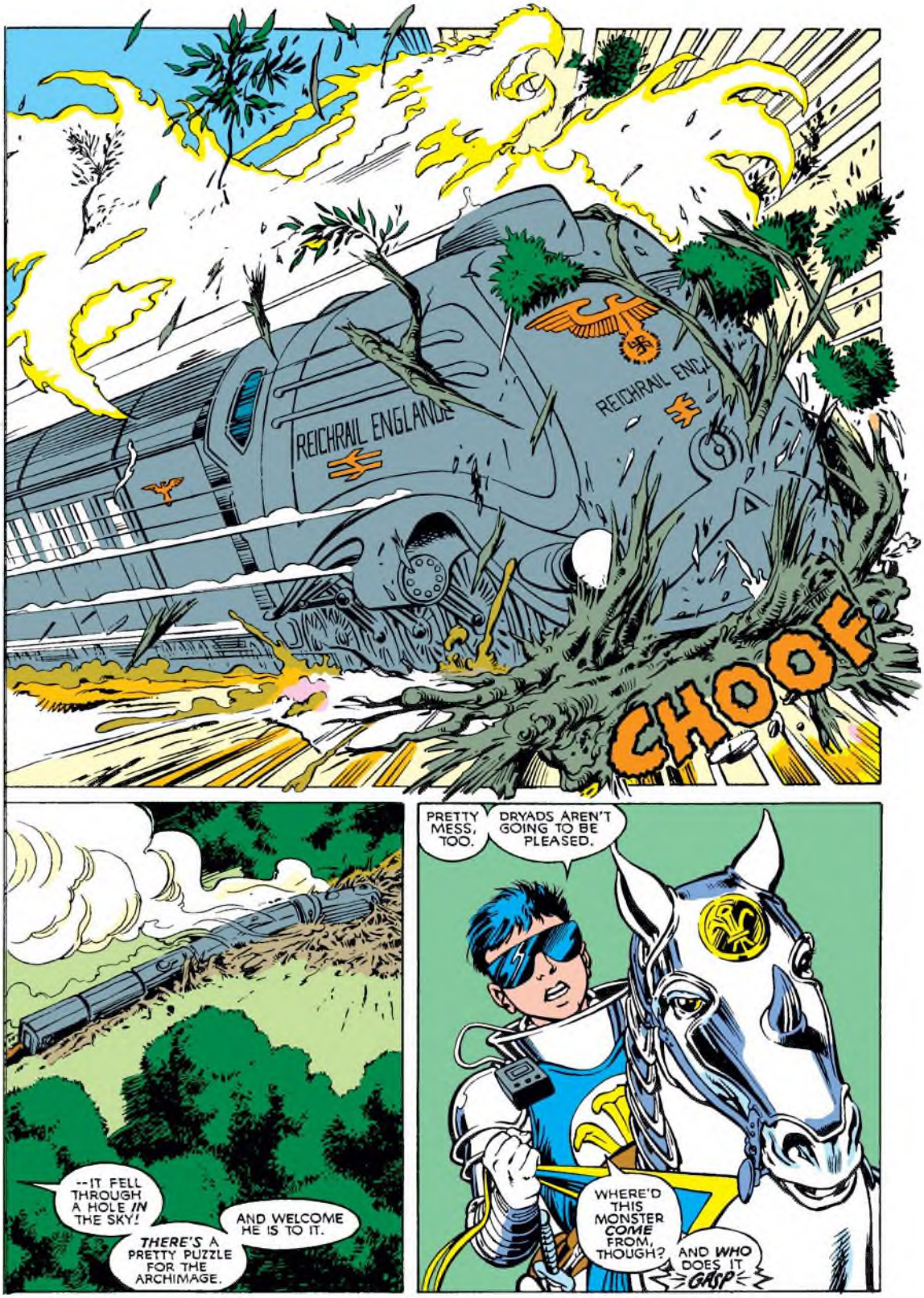
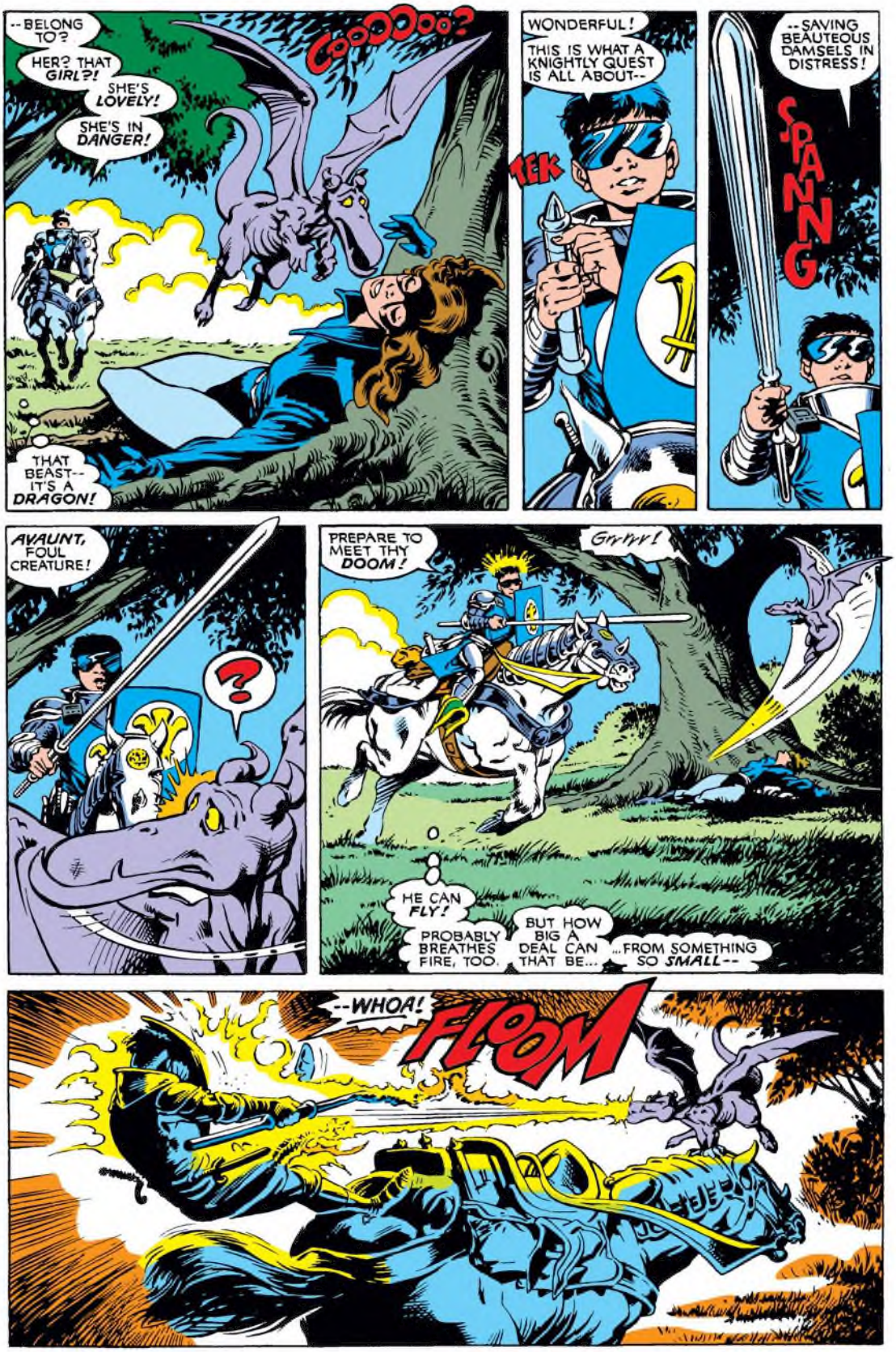
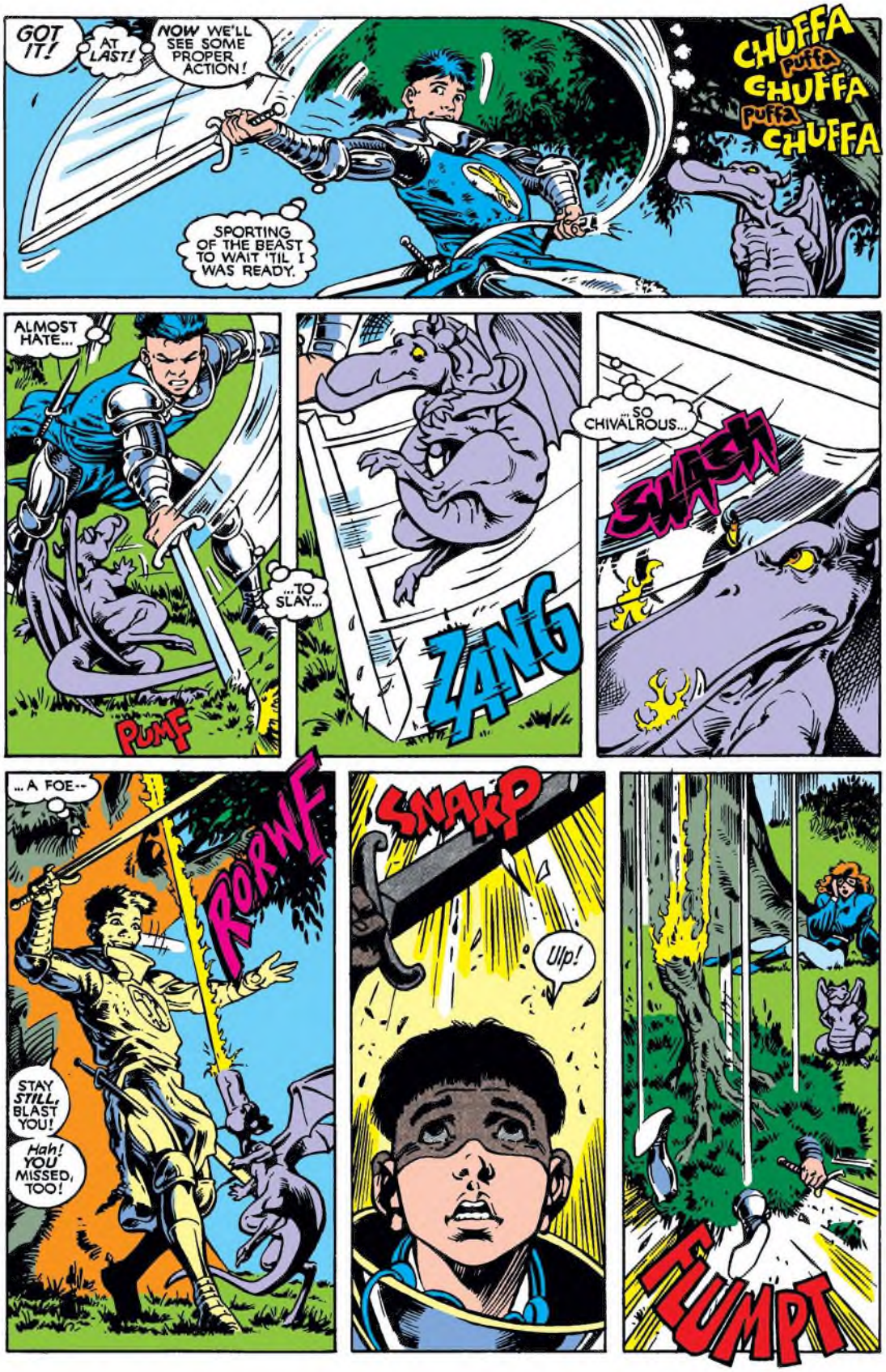
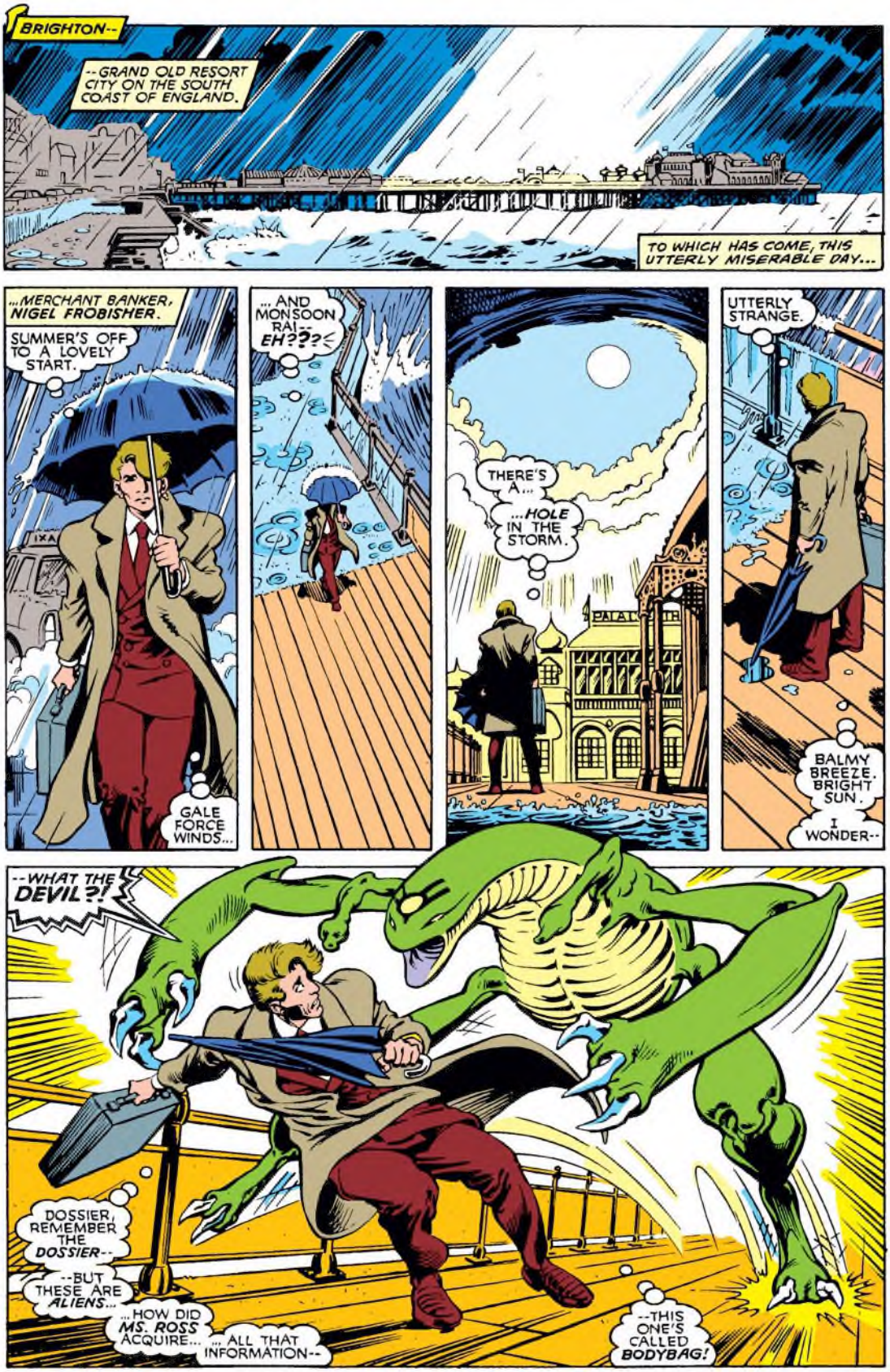
TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERER
TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF
CLAREMONT & DAVIS
CREATORS
YA!EOHWW!
EASY, GOLIATH, CALM DOWN!
--I'M TERRIFIED ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US!
NO NEED TO BE SCARED, OLD CHAP--
WHAT IS THAT?!
SOME SORT OF MACHINE, OBVIOUSLY.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY SORT OF FLYER I'VE EVER SEEN--
--BUT IT FELL OUT OF THE SKY!
NO-- THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT--

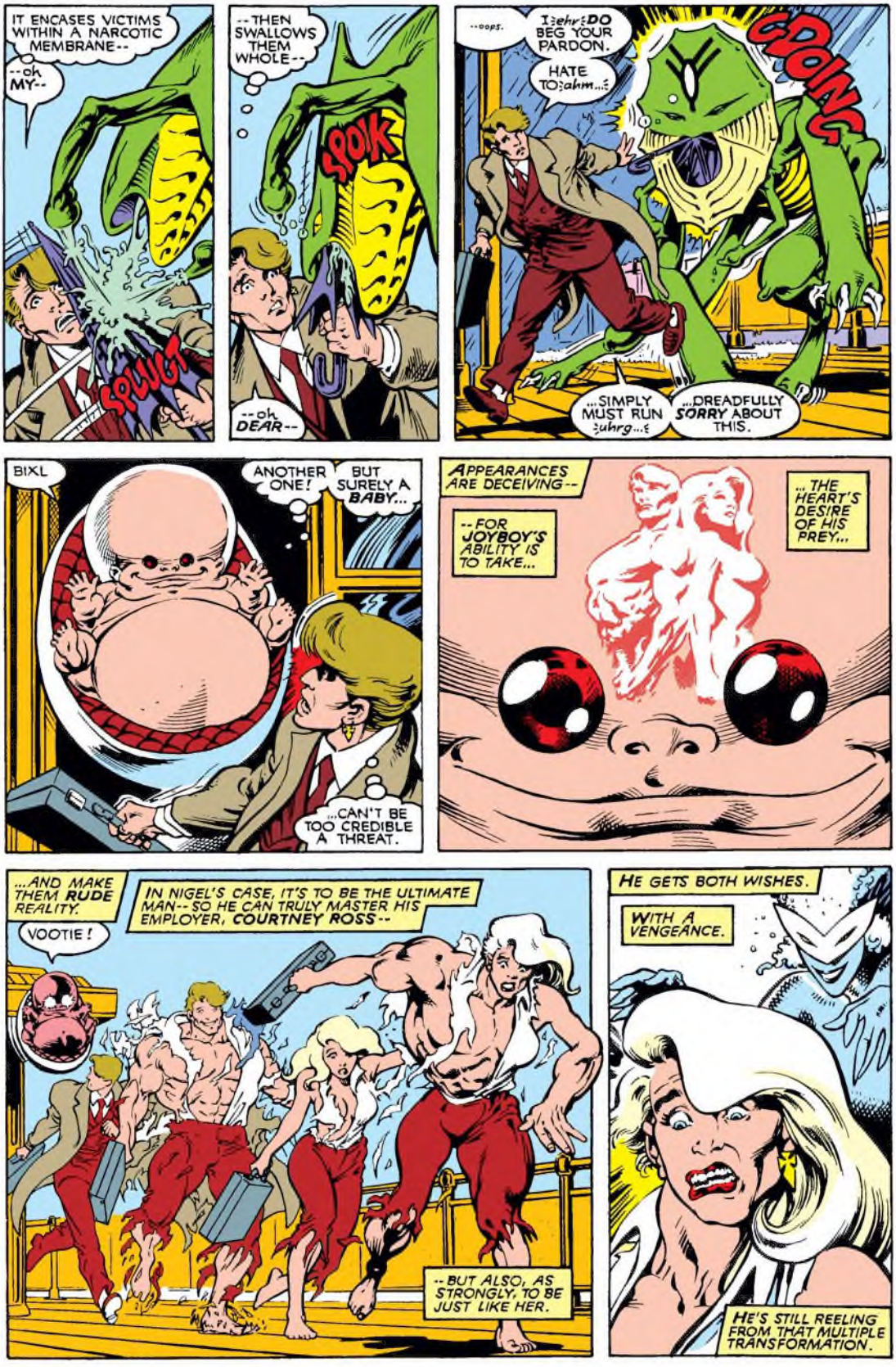

REICHRAIL ENGLAND
REICHRAIL ENG.
CHOOF
--IT FELL THROUGH A HOLE IN THE SKY!
THERE'S A PRETTY PUZZLE FOR THE ARCHIMAGE.
AND WELCOME HE IS TO IT.
PRETTY MESS, TOO.
DRYADS AREN'T GOING TO BE PLEASED.
WHERE'D THIS MONSTER COME FROM, THOUGH?
AND WHO DOES IT
GASP

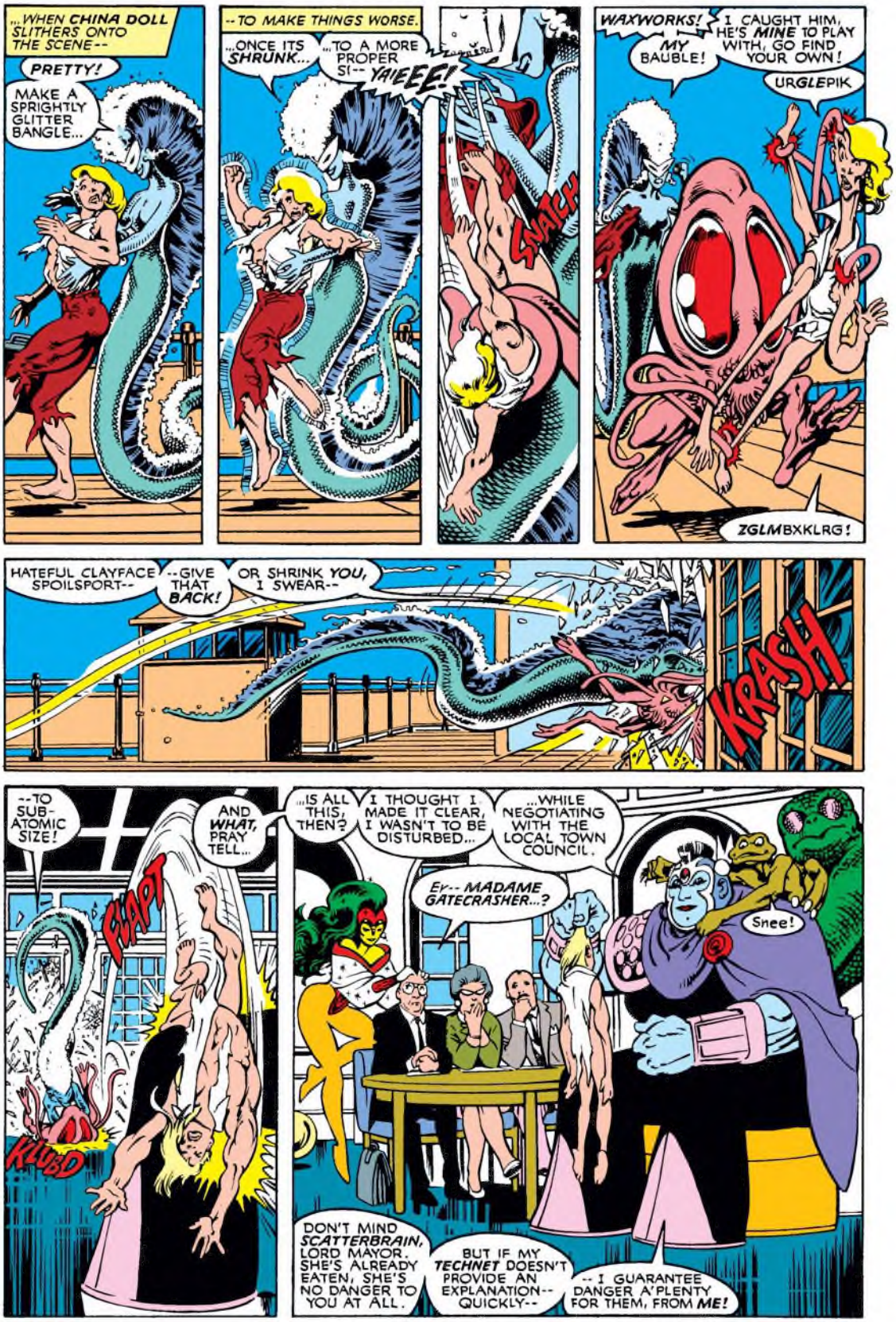

--BELONG TO?
HER? THAT GIRL?!
SHE'S LOVELY!
SHE'S IN DANGER!
GOOOOOO?
THAT BEAST-- IT'S A DRAGON!
WONDERFUL!
THIS IS WHAT A KNIGHTLY QUEST IS ALL ABOUT--
TEK
--SAVING BEAUTEOUS DAMSELS IN DISTRESS!
SPANG
AVAUNT, FOUL CREATURE!
?
PREPARE TO MEET THY DOOM!
Grrrr!
HE CAN FLY!
PROBABLY BREATHES FIRE, TOO.
BUT HOW BIG A DEAL CAN THAT BE...
...FROM SOMETHING SO SMALL--
--WHOA!
FLOOM

MY BEST SHIELD--
--AND LOOK AT MY TABARD--RUINED!
Humpfh!
HE'S LAUGHING!
MAKE SPORT OF YOUR BETTERS, WILL YOU?!
I'LL SOON-- ugh
--PUT A STOP-- ngh
--TO THAT-- glkx
--WITH A TASTE-- wngh
--OF COLD STEEL! wuhnf
Sigh
SO BIG!
TAKE CARE!
OF IRON, 'TIS MADE!
BUT LISTEN-- IT CRIES!
REICHRAIL
IT BREATHES! IT IS METAL--YET IT LIVES!
AN' 'TIS TOUCHED-- BY MAGIC!
GROANNNN
YA'EEE!
FOUND AN EXIT!
BOOT
SOMEHOW-- I DOUBT WE'RE IN KANSAS ANYMORE.
WERE WE EVER, BRIAN? IN KANSAS?
IT'S AN EXPRESSION, MEG.
SIDEREAL WARP... TRANSLUMINOUS FLUX...
WEAK AS A BABY.
SMALL WONDER.
IT'S A MIRACLE--AIDED BY YOU, PHOENIX-- WE DIDN'T SPLATTER OURSELVES ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE.
SOMETHING, MEGGAN?
THIS LAND, BRIAN--
--SOMEHOW, IT FEELS...
...LIKE HOME!


GOT IT!
AT LAST!
NOW WE'LL SEE SOME PROPER ACTION!
SPORTING OF THE BEAST TO WAIT 'TIL I WAS READY.
CHUFFA
puffa
CHUFFA
puffa
CHUFFA
ALMOST HATE...
PUMF
...TO SLAY...
ZANG
...SO CHIVALROUS...
SWASH
...A FOE--
RORWF
STAY STILL, BLAST YOU!
Hah! YOU MISSED, TOO!
SNAKP
Ulp!
FLUMPT


BRIGHTON--
--GRAND OLD RESORT CITY ON THE SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND.
TO WHICH HAS COME, THIS UTTERLY MISERABLE DAY...
...MERCHANT BANKER, NIGEL FROBISHER.
SUMMER'S OFF TO A LOVELY START.
GALE FORCE WINDS...
... AND MONSOON RAI-- EH??<
THERE'S A...
...HOLE IN THE STORM.
UTTERLY STRANGE.
BALMY BREEZE. BRIGHT SUN.
I WONDER--
--WHAT THE DEVIL?!
DOSSIER, REMEMBER THE DOSSIER--
--BUT THESE ARE ALIENS...
...HOW DID MS. ROSS ACQUIRE...
... ALL THAT INFORMATION--
--THIS ONE'S CALLED BODYBAG!

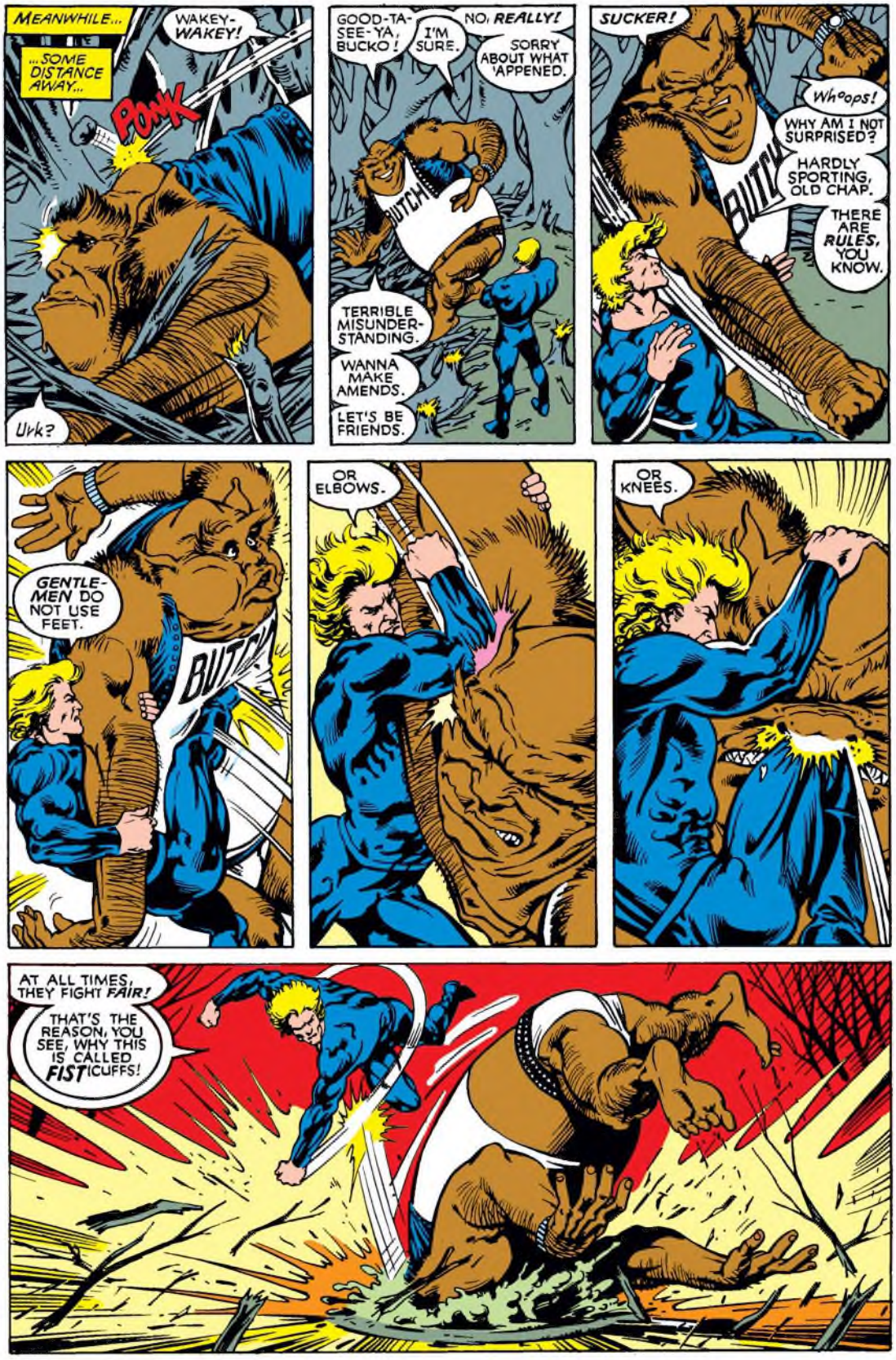

IT ENCASES VICTIMS WITHIN A NARCOTIC MEMBRANE--
--oh MY--
SPLUGT
--THEN SWALLOWS THEM WHOLE--
SPOIK
--oh DEAR--
--oops.
I:ehr:DO BEG YOUR PARDON.
HATE TO:ahm...:
GOING
...SIMPLY MUST RUN :uhrg...:
...DREADFULLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.
BIXL
ANOTHER ONE!
BUT SURELY A BABY...
...CAN'T BE TOO CREDIBLE A THREAT.
APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING--
--FOR JOYBOY'S ABILITY IS TO TAKE...
...THE HEART'S DESIRE OF HIS PREY...
...AND MAKE THEM RUDE REALITY.
VOOTIE!
IN NIGEL'S CASE, IT'S TO BE THE ULTIMATE MAN-- SO HE CAN TRULY MASTER HIS EMPLOYER, COURTNEY ROSS--
-- BUT ALSO, AS STRONGLY, TO BE JUST LIKE HER.
HE GETS BOTH WISHES.
WITH A VENGEANCE.
HE'S STILL REELING FROM THAT MULTIPLE TRANSFORMATION.

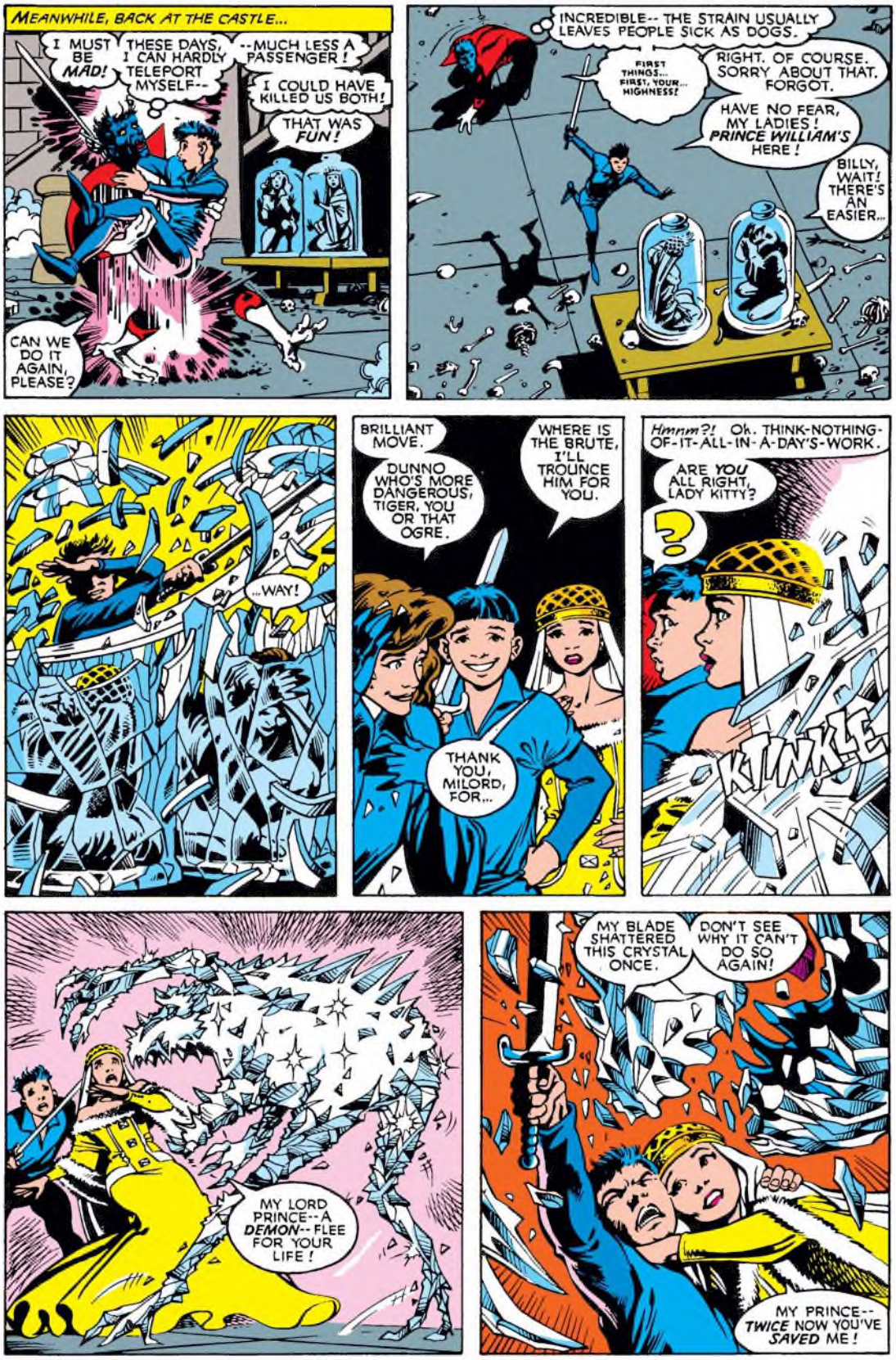

...WHEN CHINA DOLL SLITHERS ONTO THE SCENE--
PRETTY!
MAKE A SPRIGHTLY GLITTER BANGLE...
--TO MAKE THINGS WORSE.
...ONCE ITS SHRUNK...
...TO A MORE PROPER SI--
YAIEEE!
SNATCH
WAXWORKS!
I CAUGHT HIM, HE'S MINE TO PLAY WITH, GO FIND YOUR OWN!
MY BAUBLE!
URGLEPIK
ZGLMBXKLRG!
HATEFUL CLAYFACE SPOILSPORT--
--GIVE THAT BACK!
OR SHRINK YOU, I SWEAR--
KRASH
--TO SUB-ATOMIC SIZE!
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL...
FLAPT
KLUBD
...IS ALL THIS, THEN?
I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR, I WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED...
...WHILE NEGOTIATING WITH THE LOCAL TOWN COUNCIL.
Ey-- MADAME GATECRASHER...?
Snee!
DON'T MIND SCATTERBRAIN, LORD MAYOR. SHE'S ALREADY EATEN, SHE'S NO DANGER TO YOU AT ALL.
BUT IF MY TECHNET DOESN'T PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION-- QUICKLY--
-- I GUARANTEE DANGER A'PLENTY FOR THEM, FROM ME!

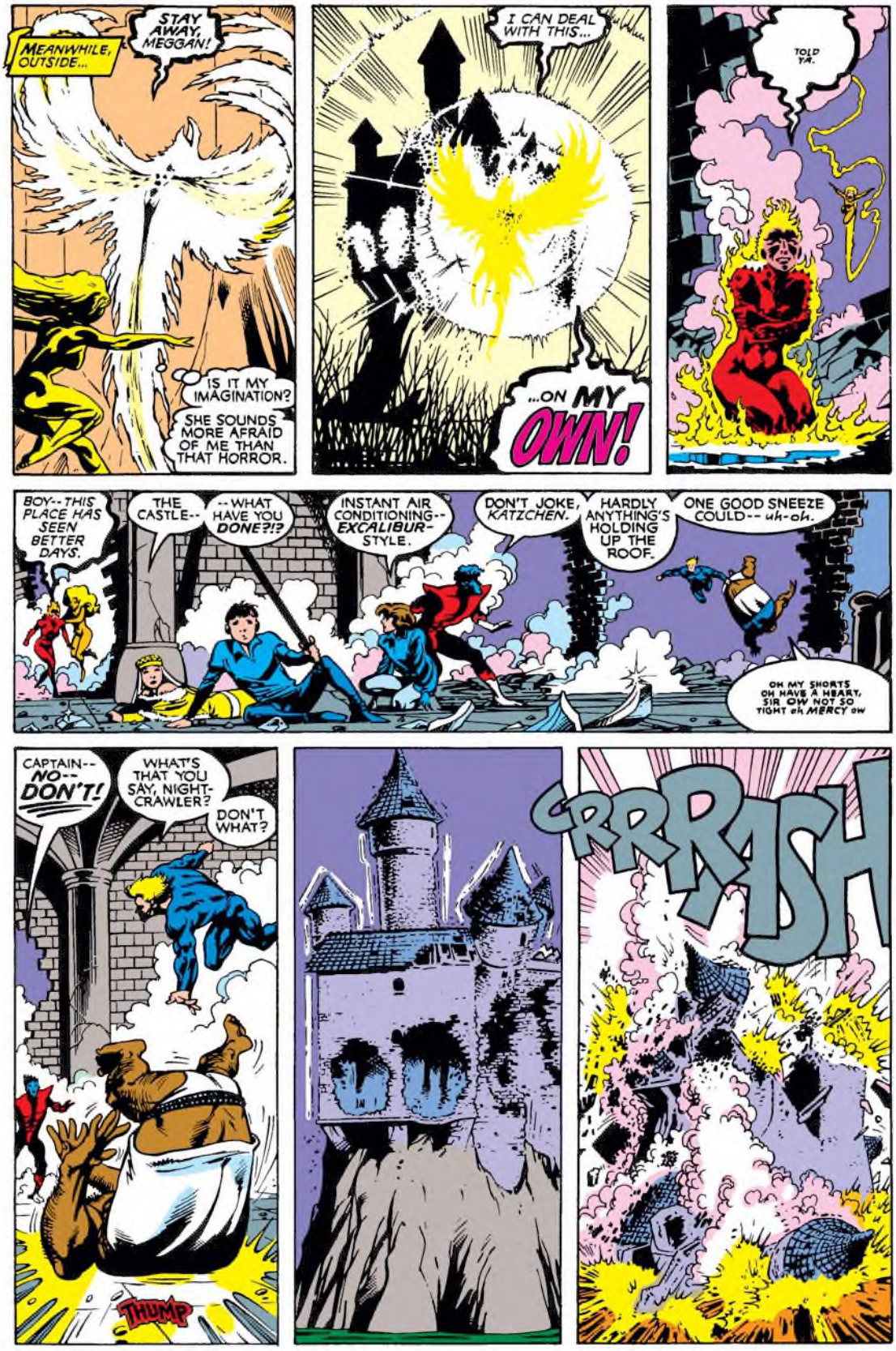
BUTCH

BOOM

BOOM


MEANWHILE...
...SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
WAKEY-WAKEY!
POW
Urk?
GOOD-TA-SEE-YA, BUCKO!
I'M SURE.
NO, REALLY! SORRY ABOUT WHAT 'APPENED.
BUTCH
TERRIBLE MISUNDER-STANDING.
WANNA MAKE AMENDS.
LET'S BE FRIENDS.
SUCKER!
Whoops!
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
HARDLY SPORTING, OLD CHAP.
THERE ARE RULES, YOU KNOW.
BUTCH
GENTLE-MEN DO NOT USE FEET.
BUTCH
OR ELBOWS.
OR KNEES.
AT ALL TIMES, THEY FIGHT FAIR!
THAT'S THE REASON, YOU SEE, WHY THIS IS CALLED FISTICUFFS!


MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CASTLE...
I MUST BE MAD!
THESE DAYS, I CAN HARDLY TELEPORT MYSELF--
--MUCH LESS A PASSENGER!
I COULD HAVE KILLED US BOTH!
THAT WAS FUN!
CAN WE DO IT AGAIN, PLEASE?
INCREDIBLE-- THE STRAIN USUALLY LEAVES PEOPLE SICK AS DOGS.
FIRST THINGS... FIRST, YOUR... HIGHNESS!
RIGHT. OF COURSE. SORRY ABOUT THAT. FORGOT.
HAVE NO FEAR, MY LADIES! PRINCE WILLIAM'S HERE!
BILLY, WAIT! THERE'S AN EASIER...
...WAY!
BRILLIANT MOVE.
DUNNO WHO'S MORE DANGEROUS, TIGER, YOU OR THAT OGRE.
WHERE IS THE BRUTE, I'LL TROUNCE HIM FOR YOU.
THANK YOU, MILORD, FOR...
Hmmm?! Ok. THINK-NOTHING-OF-IT-ALL-IN-A-DAY'S-WORK.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LADY KITTY?
?
KLNKLE
MY LORD PRINCE--A DEMON--FLEE FOR YOUR LIFE!
MY BLADE SHATTERED THIS CRYSTAL ONCE.
DON'T SEE WHY IT CAN'T DO SO AGAIN!
MY PRINCE-- TWICE NOW YOU'VE SAVED ME!

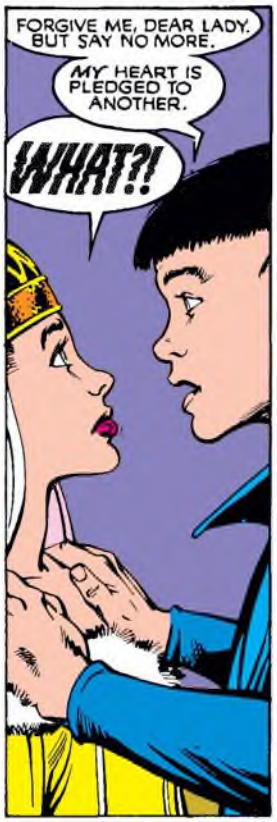

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
STAY AWAY, MEGGAN!
IS IT MY IMAGINATION?
SHE SOUNDS MORE AFRAID OF ME THAN THAT HORROR.
I CAN DEAL WITH THIS...
...ON MY OWN!
TOLD YA.
BOY--THIS PLACE HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS.
THE CASTLE--
--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!?
INSTANT AIR CONDITIONING--EXCALIBUR-STYLE.
DON'T JOKE, KATZCHEN.
HARDLY ANYTHING'S HOLDING UP THE ROOF.
ONE GOOD SNEEZE COULD-- uh-oh.
OH MY SHORTS OH HAVE A HEART, SIR OW NOT SO TIGHT oh MERCY ow
CAPTAIN-- NO-- DON'T!
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, NIGHT-CRAWLER?
DON'T WHAT?
THUMP
GRRRASH

NEVER MIND.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU, MY PRINCE?
NIGHT-CRAWLER!
THERE WAS NO NEED TO TELEPORT INSIDE!
PHOENIX OR I COULD HAVE CARRIED YOU.
SOME SPECTACULAR RESCUE, eh, LADY KITTY?
I NEEDED TO PROVE I COULD STILL...
...PULL MY OWN WEIGHT.

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO DO THAT.
WHERE'S THE SENSE OF MAKING PLANS, YOU DAFT, SILLY MAN.
... IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO CARRY THEM OUT?!
MEGGAN??

I AM SO GRATEFUL YOU CAME TO MY AID, MY PRINCE.
Ulp!
LOOKS LIKE THE CASTLE...
...ISN'T YOUR ONLY CONQUEST, TIGER.


FORGIVE ME, DEAR LADY. BUT SAY NO MORE.
MY HEART IS PLEDGED TO ANOTHER.
WHAT?!

LADY KITTY--
-- I FORMALLY ASK YOUR HAND IN HOLY MATRIMONY.
TO BE MY BRIDE, AND REIGN BY MY SIDE...
?
?
?
?
?
... AS QUEEN OF THE REALM!
NEXT: The MARRIAGE of TRUE MINDS (AMONG OTHER THINGS)!